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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

American Telephone and Telegraph

**Petition for the Establishment
of Additional Standards to Govern
Study Area Boundary Changes in
Connection with the Transfer of
Service Territories Between or
Among Local Exchange Carriers**

RM-8334

John Staurulakis, Inc. (JSI), by its attorney, hereby files these reply comments in response to the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission's) September 20, 1993 Public Notice requesting comments on the Petition for Rulemaking filed by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) in the above-captioned matter.¹ JSI is a cost consulting firm specializing in toll and access settlements for independent telephone companies. As part of this work, JSI is called upon to assist its client companies with acquisitions and sales. As part of these efforts, JSI is asked to assist in the preparation of Study Area Waivers where such waivers are necessary. Accordingly, JSI is an interested party in this proceeding.

In its Petition, AT&T has requested codification of additional information to be required of all Study Area Waiver requests.² The

¹ See Public Notice, DA 93-1128, released September 20, 1993; see also Petition for Rulemaking [of AT&T], filed September 3, 1993 (AT&T Petition).

² See AT&T Petition at 10-14.

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comments that JSI has reviewed demonstrate why the Commission should deny the AT&T Petition.

JSI agrees with certain commenters that AT&T, once again, has relied on speculation and inadequate readings of the history of the Universal Service Fund (USF) in its efforts to justify the relief that the AT&T Petition seeks.³ Like other parties, JSI agrees that there is no need to develop rigid Study Area Waiver rules in light of the Common Carrier Bureau's September 7, 1993 Public Notice concerning suggested Study Area demonstrations;⁴ parties should be free to tailor their respective submissions based on the factually-specific circumstances presented. Moreover, even assuming the Commission sees a need to address AT&T's concerns, the more appropriate place to consider the AT&T Petition would be in the context of the Commission's recently announced broad review of all USF issues.⁵

³ See Comments of the National Telephone Cooperative Association, RM 8334, filed October 20, 1993 (NTCA Comments) at 2; U S West Comments, RM 8334, filed October 20, 1993 (US West Comments) at 5-6. JSI has responded to similar arguments regarding the USF before. See Comments of John Staurulakis, Inc., CC Docket No. 80-286, filed October 6, 1993 at 2-7 and Reply Comments of John Staurulakis, Inc., CC Docket No. 80-286, filed October 15, 1993 at 2-7.

⁴ See NTCA Comments at 8; US West Comments at 2-3 citing Public Notice, DA 93-1093, released September 7, 1993.

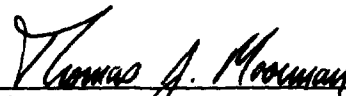
⁵ See NTCA Comments at 8; Comments of the United States Telephone Association, RM 8334, filed October 20, 1993 at 3-4; US West Comments at 5. The broad review of the USF was announced in a recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. See In the Matter of Amendment of Part 36 of The Commission's Rules And Establishment of a Joint Board, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 80-286, FCC 93-435, released September 14, 1993 at para. 2.

WHEREFORE, JSI respectfully requests that the Commission deny the AT&T Petition for the reasons stated in these comments and other comments in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

John Staurulakis, Inc.

By:


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Certificate of Service

I, Janice K. Bramlett, do hereby certify that on this 5th day of November, 1993, a copy of the foregoing "Reply Comments of John Staurulakis, Inc." in RM 8334 was mailed, first class postage prepaid, to the individuals listed below.

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